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Magazine

AUGUST 2009

VOL. 9 ISSUE 11

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Conventions

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

We have almost reached the end of yet another volume year of PRICK. Only one more issue after this before we begin our tenth year! Every month we try and think of new things to do within the magazine and this month a few new things have been introduced and old favorites have been brought back. We now have a SuicideGirls section as well as a Gypsy Queens' Prickin' Around page. We have also resurrected Skinscopes, an astrological insight to your tattoo future! Stay tuned for our future plans to mark our anniversary. We might try and whip up a party or something.

In this issue we have a very tattoo related band by the way of Gallows and an Icelandic adventure as well as two featured artists that will be-dazzle your gray matter. On top of that, we have coverage of the New York City Tattoo Convention, the Bonnaroo Music Festival, and much more.

Enjoy this issue,
Chuck B.

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ON THE COVER:
Svala photographed by Chuck B.

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"The Boss" **Bruce Springsteen** headlined the main stage Saturday night with a monster four hour set, and surprised the audience by doing a few songs with **Phish** on Sunday night

BONNAROO

PRICKIN' AROUND

BY MAX BRAND

For the last eight years, music and art lovers have set up camp on a 500-acre farm in Manchester, Tenn, but this is no ordinary farm. After the success of the first few Bonnaroo festivals, Superfly Productions and AC Entertainment purchased the land and converted it into a camping and concert venue that the almost 100,000 attendees can call home for four days every June. With ample facilities, general stores, first aid tents, interactive art installments, and a huge permanent fountain, it's obvious that this farm only serves one purpose these days. Another thing you'll find at Bonnaroo that you rarely see at a concert venue is reasonably priced, delicious food. The cuisine spans the gamut, and everyone is sure to find something to their taste. It also must be mentioned that Bonnaroo has to be one of the most eco-friendly festivals constantly informing people about new materials that will lessen our footprint on the Earth, as well as manned recycling stations about every fifty feet.

As far as the music at Bonnaroo...where to begin? Bonnaroo has always provided some rock, some soul, some bluegrass, some funk, but one of the main attractions has consistently been jam bands, experimental music, and music from around the world. This year was no exception with music ranging from the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Mars Volta, to Bruce Springsteen and Phish. And that's a very small example of the diversity of tunes.

Thursday started the weekend, picking up my credentials, and then



The Beastie Boys gave fans a no frills, down and dirty, rock and rap set Friday night just before **Phish** took the stage



As if the **Del McCoury Band** needed any help, here they are with **John Fishman** on drums and **Dave Grisman** on mandolin



Phish closed out Friday night and Sunday night on the huge What Stage at Bonnaroo



Phish's magnificent light rig illuminated all of the bands who played the main stage throughout the weekend



Cherryholmes is a family band that brought amazing Tennessee grown bluegrass/jazz/folk/gospel to Bonnaroo



Moe. is no joke, and they jammed out at This Tent starting at 1am Saturday night, and ending around 6am the next morning



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The crowd shuffles through the Bonnaroo Arch as Centeroo opens on Friday



Gomez gets music lovers ready for a long weekend with a set early Friday afternoon on Which Stage



Janeane Garofalo tells some awkward stories at the comedy tent, which also hosted performances by Christian Finnegan, Arj Barker, Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, the Daily Show Correspondents, and more

spending half the day in a car line to get onto the campground. This is something you have to expect, but it can be pretty trying on inexperienced festival-goers. I set up camp and had time to catch some live music before resting up for the weekend. The forecast was all rain which can make for a muddy weekend of camping, but the festival gods were looking out for Bonnaroo, and almost all of the rain had come and gone by the morning. Friday was an opportunity to roam the grounds and get familiar with the layout of the stages. It was great seeing a few acts that I've never heard of, like Tift Merritt and Gomez, and then catching a few acts that I never thought I'd see live. Of course, I stopped off to see Toumani Diabate, a musician from Africa that banjo player Bela Fleck had invited to collaborate with him. Friday ended with the Beastie Boys on the gigantic main stage and then Phish, who was in the middle of their first summer tour in five years.

Saturday began with bluegrass. I made my way to "The Other Tent" to see what was happening, and was introduced to a great family band from Tennessee called Cherryholmes. From there I cooled off in the comedy tent and enjoyed the comedy styling of *The Daily Show* correspondents before heading back to my original location to catch the likes of The Del McCoury Band; who brought out guests Jon Fishman, the drummer of Phish, and David Grisman, long time musical partner of Jerry Garcia. Later in the evening, Bruce Springsteen performed, and was far more entertaining than I ever expected. The night ended with Moe. In "This Tent" taking the stage at one in the morning. By four, I knew I had to head back to my tent to re-energize for Sunday, but Moe. kept going until the sun came up.

Sunday at a big festival always has a strange feeling, because you know that it's almost over. I caught a bit of Dillinger Escape Plan on the way to the main stage where I camped out in the grass with some new friends, waiting for the perfect spot to catch Phish's closing set later that evening. Luckily, a day waiting around is never wasted at Bonnaroo. The crowd was entertained by Erykah Badu and then Snoop Dogg. Later, with a phenomenal light show and Phish being on point years after calling it quits, a boy couldn't have asked for a better ending to a perfect weekend. I packed up my tent, hopped in my car, and was back in Atlanta quick enough to wake up in my own bed, after sleeping all day Monday to recover. Thank you Bonnaroo. See ya next year! ★

For more information, go to www.bonnaroo.com



Artists from around the country received special invitations to adorn Bonnaroo with original artwork. This mantis was done by RIET, the apprentice of Black 13 Tattoo Parlor in Nashville, Tenn.



The Centeroo fountain at night



Jimmy Fallon kept the audience in stitches during a few sets Saturday evening in the comedy tent



The Yeah Yeah Yeahs rock the crowd gathered at Which Stage on Friday



Trey Anastasio and Mike Gordon of Phish. Step into the freezer.

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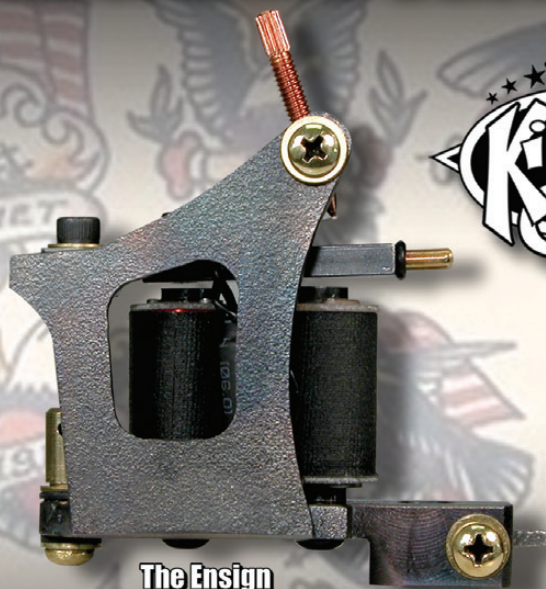
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PRICKIN' AROUND WITH THE GYPSY QUEENS

BY ROCK 'N' ROLL RUBY, GQ



STIGMA

STIGMA, THE BAND

Often referred to as "The Godfather of NYHC," Vinnie Stigma is the longtime guitarist of legendary musical acts Agnostic Front and Madball. Along with his guitar playing gigs, Stigma currently runs New York Hardcore Tattoos on 127 Stanton Street in New York City's Lower East Side.

His new side project, simply called Stigma, is compiled of members straight from the streets of New York. I had the privilege of speaking with Josh Tilotta, one of the guitarists. Tilotta describes the band's music as a mix of everything from Agnostic Front to Johnny Cash. "It has [a] little something for everyone without losing its hardcore roots." When asked who Stigma's major influences are, Tilotta merely replied, "We are our own influence." At the end of the interview, I asked him if there was anything else he'd like to add and he responded by saying, "Hardcore lives on, don't turn to emo!" ★

For more information, go to www.myspace.com/vinnystigma.

Stigma's new album, *New York Blood*, is out now on I Scream Records and is produced by Jamey Jasta (Hatebreed) and Phil Caivano (Monster Magnet), and is mixed by Zeuss (Hatebreed, Agnostic Front, Shadows Fall).

5-7-0 TATTOOING CO.

Nestled in the valley of Wilkes-Barre, PA sits 5-7-0 Tattooing Company. 5-7-0 opened its doors in October of 2005 under the ownership of Geena and Ron Russo. The couple bring a refreshed, modern twist to the mom and pop shop: He is creating the beauty and she is the brains behind the shop. A beauty in her own right, Geena is V.P. of P.R. for Gypsy Queens National and, as Ron puts it "she's the boss, nothing would happen without her!"

5-7-0's standard of business is to treat their clients without attitude and with the respect they would want for themselves and their family. The dynamic duo didn't realize the impact the shop would have at first, and new clients (as well as old) are constantly showing up to get tattooed.

5-7-0 hosts guest artists monthly. Artists like Tim Victim and Pastor of Deep Six. Ron has been tattooed by these great artists and wants you to have the same experience. With two locations and eight artists, this is their opportunity to say thanks to their loyal clients. Because without clients, the shop would never be successful! ★

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For more information, go to www.myspace.com/geenarusso.



5-7-0 TATTOOING CO.



HAWK GQ

HAWK GYPSY QUEEN

Hawk lives in Wallingford, Ct. and currently models for Gypsy Queens and H2Ocean. The striking, 22-year old beauty was modeling for another organization when she met Frankie Scorpion, GQ founder, at a convention two years ago. The other organization discouraged Hawk from talking to Frankie but, before long, she was in love with him and everything the Gypsy Queens stand for. Hawk encourages women who are interested in being a GQ to go for it! If you want to model for an organization that promotes beauty and self worth, this is it.

Hawk enjoys spending time with her dog and her boyfriend. She also enjoys painting, hiking and playing video games. Hawk's favorite tattoo is a silhouette of an eagle. Being Native American and German, the eagle represents her heritage, a journey to a better place, and immortality.

If Hawk were a comic character she would be Aeon Flux and her theme song would be "Free Bird." If Hawk had a final statement, it would read 'Be yourself and don't let anyone change who you are.' ★

For more information, go to www.myspace.com/hawksuicide22 or www.modelmayhem.com/546759.

TATTOO SHOW

2009 ICELANDIC TATTOO FESTIVAL

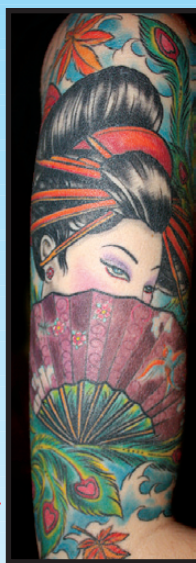
BY CHUCK B.

Here we go again. Party time USA, wait I mean, party time Iceland! Number four was better than ever. Economic collapse and all, it seems like Iceland still kicks ass to me. I mean the people are a bit pissed at their government and banks, but in general the party still keeps rolling and the tattoos keep getting better. The popularity of the art form get is getting bigger as well. The fourth annual Icelandic Tattoo Festival was a great success but the experience in all was a rocket trip to the moon!

When I landed on the other world, Iceland, I was greeted by fest mastermind Ossur with open arms and a broad smile. I knew at that point, economic collapse of his country and all, that this was still going to be one hell of a trip and tattoo festival. Ossur is very connected to local media so he arranged live radio interviews, TV spots, and newspaper articles on Thursday morning and Friday morning for the artists and me! U.S. artist Erin Lambert and myself flew in on the same plane. We had no more than three early morning beers at Ossur's bar, a shot, and 30 minutes of hospitality before we were put in front of live broadcast mics at two of the major alternative radio stations of Iceland. The first was hosted by a male and female DJ duo. The girl DJ quickly noted on air that I had a deep and sexy radio voice and it became a funny bit that I fully went with. In the second interview, the

joke continued on a different station and I ended up doing a lot of the talking. The DJ asked me how I liked the fest and Iceland. I answered and hyped up how awesome Reykjavik was as a city. The DJ meant to say kiss ass but said "It's always good to lick a little Icelandic ass when you visit!" Anything goes on radio in Iceland so I shouted, "no, no, no I am not licking any Icelandic ass unless it's a hot Icelandic chick ass and that's still questionable!" That was the first hour of the trip and it only got crazier and crazier!

This year there was a different feel and artist lineup. The location was the same

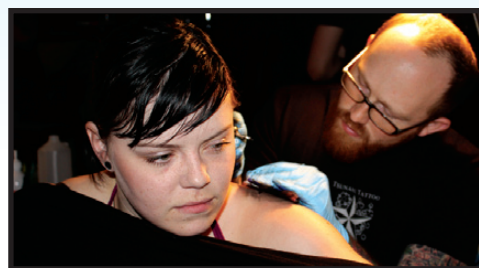


Event producers **Linda** and **Ossur** with two of their kids

Icelandic model **Svala** shows her tattoo by **Miss Sofia**



Scott Ellis at work on an Icelandic pilot



Jason June doing one of many pieces



Tattoo on pilot by **Scott Ellis**



Ezra Haidet shares in a father and son moment



Chuck B. and the cast of the 2009 Icelandic Tattoo Festival

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ICELAND 2009

but new and revamped with a totally different feeling. Fest producers and super-hosts, Ossur and Linda, decided that the venue in the past was good, but not as good as it could be, so they decided to buy the place out and make it exactly how they wanted it. In the tradition of their first bar, Bar II, they turned what was a generic pub/music venue into a very cool and modern rock club/event venue now called Sodoma' (as in Sodom and Gomora).

Bar II is still the original (dirty in a good way) rock 'n' roll bar of Iceland but Sodoma' is more of an "upscale" rock bar for lack of a better word. Over the fest weekend from noon to ten at night (though it never got dark) the bar was transformed into a tattoo festival room but was promptly turned back into a music venue each



Tattoo above by **Buri**
Below by **Jen B**



Owl tattoo (right)
by **Jason June**
won **Tattoo of the Day** on Fri.



Bands rocked the party every night of the fest



Chip Baskin of Queen Of Hearts Tattoo (U.S.)
"suffering" though another lower back tattoo



Erin Lambert and **Miss Sofia** with fellow U.S. artists
Rich Lajole and his wife at Friday's afterparty



Event producer **Linda** working the custom
beer taps at the afterparty



Svanur at work on the **Humphrey Bogart**
piece (shown right)





One of Iceland's original tattoo artists Fjolinir at work



International and local rock stars graced the stage over the weekend



Chuck B. midway thru a Viking tramp stamp being done by Svanur



Skull by Ezra Haidet



U.S. artist **Thomas Asher** won for **Best Large Tattoo** for this floral koi piece on **Ingi Valur**



ICELAND 2009

night so the artist and locals could rock out to great bands.

The fest was as busy or busier than ever and was very profitable for all the U.S. artists. The Icelandic artists take the show a bit differently. To them it's all about showing off their most amazing abilities and has nothing to do with making money or paying for an overseas trip. The mixing of the two only fits to the fire and ice mentality of the Icelandic lifestyle. The U.S. artists, of course, were churning out their best work but the demand for them was great and their numbers were few in comparison to the clients waiting so the pace was feverish and profitable for them. Meanwhile, the Icelandic artists worked at a much more relaxed pace doing maybe one piece a day.

Returning U.S. artists included Erin Lambert, Jason June, Chip Baskin, Rich Lajole, Thomas Asher, and Miss Sophia. Newcomer U.S. artists were Scott Ellis and Ezra Haidet of Triple Crown Tattoo and Jen Beirola of Grin and Barrett Tattoo. A good showing of the local Icelandic tattoo artists were in attendance that included Svanur of Tattoo & Skart, JP (Jon Pall), Buri and Fjolinir of The Icelandic tattoo Corp., and U.S. Icelandic transplant Jason Thompson of Black Diamond Tattoo.



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ICELAND 2009

The Reykjavik weekend nightlife is world famous, almost as famous as their hottest commodity Bjork. So with that, after a blistering pace of tattooing, the U.S. artists fully cut loose each night. Some of the party highlights included a well inebriated, ball kicking, neck slapping, "friendly" bar fight between myself, Chip Baskin, and Jason June. I witnessed Erin Lambert having a head butting contest with a very large Viking which ended in two Vikings' bodies slamming each other on a broken glass riddled sidewalk. It also included a jacked up version of myself, arm wrestling a Viking in the



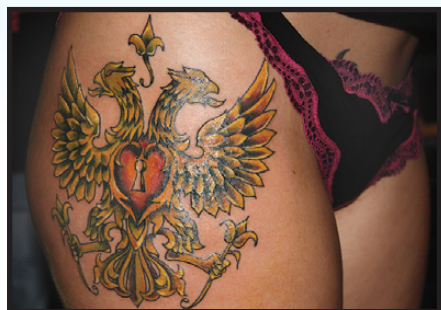
Hauknur's beer crest won for **Best Small Tattoo** by Jenn Beirola



Creature tattoos by **Ezra Haidet**



Jenn Beirola of Omaha, Ne. at work on **Hauknur**



Tattoo by **Jason Thompson**



Koi by **Scott Ellis**



Giant crucifixion piece (left) by **Scott Ellis**. Ram (above) by **Erin Lambert**



Tattoo by **Jason Thompson, Iceland**



Winner for **Best Black and Gray** by **Svanur**



Tattoo of Day Sunday by **Buri**



Skull by **Scott Ellis**



Mic and Rose by **Rich**



Tiger by **Thomas Asher**



EJH tattoo by **Jason June**



Sparrow and rose by **Jason June**

ICELAND 2009



middle of a packed Bar 11, Sylvester Stallone *Over the Top* style. I lost two hard fought beer stained battles but the dude was huge, and I won the respect of all involved (my arms hurt for days after). That scenario ended up in a Viking on Viking arm wrestling match and a subsequent bar fight. Reykjavik is a great party city in my book!

On Sunday, the final night of the fest, I arrived early to get set up as primary speaker on stage. The venue was turned back to a music club/bar and the only people there were a middle aged Icelandic Barbie doll and her married couple friends. They looked confused so I offered my assistance. After a lengthy explanation of why there was no fest set up and an equally long explanation of why these people just arrived and how they were so



Winner for **Best Color** by **Scott Ellis**



Erin Lambert at work or play?

bumped they missed it, I bought them a round of drinks. The aging Barbie doll looked me in the eyes and said "I know who you are. You're the sexy voice guy on the radio. I work in a fish factory in the mornings, I listen to the alt-station and heard your voice and the DJ accusing you of licking Icelandic ass and cracked up!" She then proceeded to buy me shots and grope my ass with her fish cleaning hands and claimed, I was one of the reasons she wanted to come and she had the hot Icelandic ass for me to lick! Tattoo of an Iceland flag on it and all! It got pretty awkward at that point and I had to get out before I got eaten by a fishmonger in front of my U.S. and Icelandic peers. Drunk and molested, I took the stage and called out the awards telling bad jokes and bumbling a bit but closing out the show in fine form. The winners included; Jason June for Tattoo of the Day on Friday, Svanur for Best Black and Gray, Scott Ellis for Best Color, and JP (Jon Pall) for Best of Day Saturday and Best of Show.

The fest really ended on the following Monday with an invigorating dip in the world famous Blue Lagoon and an amazing five course meal. I thought the trip was over and a great success and had reached its peak but I had one more jewel of an Icelandic experience. As I sat in the Icelandic airport wasted, spent, and drunk on the experience (quite literally), who

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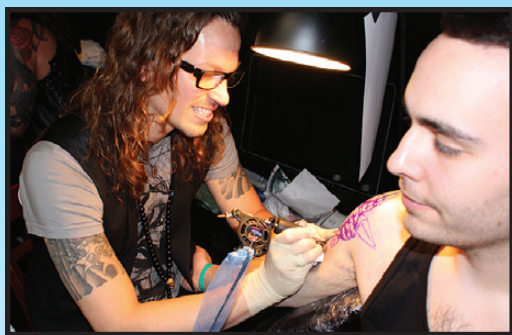


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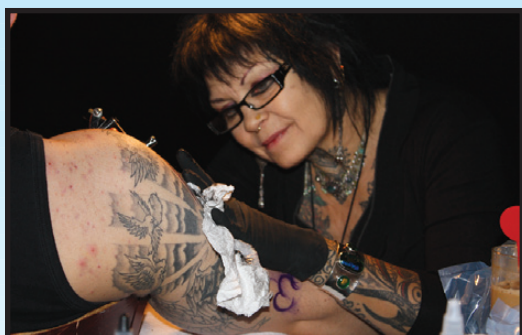
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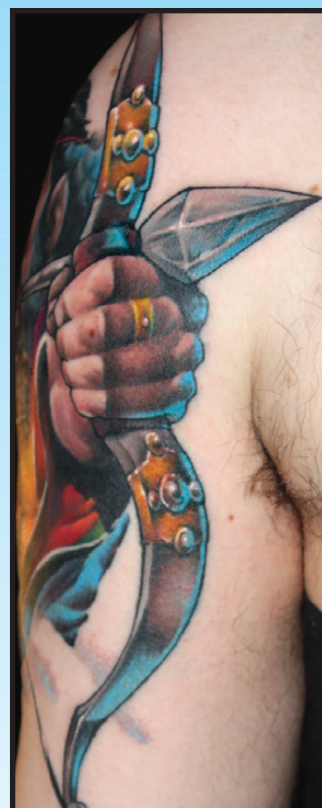
ICELAND 2009



Jon Pall of The Icelandic Tattoo Co.



Miss Sofia (U.S.) at work



This piece by Jon Pall won **Tattoo of the Day (Sat)** and took **Best of Show**



The Awards were hand crafted by **Erin Lambert**

sits down across from me? Mother fuckin' Bjork! I decided not to get my camera out in fear she would smash it and I would lose a weeks worth of work. I did however get the balls up to meet and chat with her for a few minutes. We ended up flying back to the U.S. on the same plane. As I sat on the plane beaming with glee from the over all trip I found peace with God as I thought well if the plane crashes with the most famous person in Iceland aboard, at least I'll go out happy and make history in good company. Man I love Iceland! ★



Artists and fest producers at the Blue Lagoon - See you next year!

ERNA EINARSDÓTTIR

ICELANDIC HOT INK

BY CHUCK B. MAKEUP BY BIRNA

Erna Einarisdóttir is a one of a kind creature in Iceland. In a land of blonde haired, blue eyed Viking women, this tattooed, jet black bobbed hair, punk rock chick stood out in style and personality. All Icelandic people have strong personalities, but Erna's personality is set on eleven! After setting up the photo shoot and deciding on a tranquil park setting instead of a city scene, Erna opted to dress down from the way she was glammed up at our first meeting. "I wanted to show the contrast of Iceland by wearing a simple farm dress." Full of energy and contrast is an understatement on this artistic, Icelandic vixen and the farm dress quickly came off (entirely) to show her real punk rock self. I was a bit put back as we were in a family style park in the early morning but was put at ease by Erna that, "if it's for art sake, it's legal to be naked in public." She then proceeded to tell me that she was a performing artist (usually in the buff), "one of my first art pieces was a series of photographs of me naked in crowded mundane settings in a natural, unshaved (purposefully overgrown all over) state. My point was something completely different but everyone just focused on my hairy areas. After that, showing my body came easy to me."

How did you get into getting tattooed?

My first was when I was sixteen. I got it as a birthday present from my mom.

What is your primary job or thing you do for a living.

I do everything [laughs]. I just finished school, now I'm a graphic designer. My main summer job is working as a bartender.

How would you describe yourself and your personality?

Well it's nice to be me, wasn't but now it is. I'm open, honest and fun.

What are your main hobbies?

So so many. Creating, planning, hanging at the café, doing, screwing...





During the shoot **Erna** and her makeup artist **Birna** decided to **rip a giant plant** from the park and **dismember it**.
I was kind of confused until **they ate it!**



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What are you currently into artistic wise?

Now, I am painting and drawing a lot, I can call myself an art slut. I like working with all forms of art. My graduation project was a stop motion film. I fell in love with that, making all the props and figures. I have danced with colors while a band is playing. Making the music paint me. In October, when the banks went bankrupt I did a performance called Berskjalda-eth-ur Íslendingur (vulnerable Icelander). I painted my body with a leaking Icelandic flag and a mask with a long nose like Pinocchio. At that time we did not know who to blame or what exactly happened. The most recent performance I did was in a show called *Orbis Terræ*, I played a goddess called Inanna.

You told me about a nude series of photographs you did early in your art career. Was that the beginning of using your body as a form of artistic expression?

No, not many people know that I was in an acting class in 1997 in Borgarholtsskoli. I made a play about a woman that was in a tribe, she slept with a man before marriage and was killed for that. The costume was paint and a mask. I did the (aforementioned) photo shoot/performance after that in 2005 with a photographer. I was spending a lot of time thinking about normal things that are normal but still are things that people are shy about, afraid of and is not appropriate for some reason. So I was naked for one day, did my normal things like going to school on a bus, to a videostore and coffeehouse and caused quite a stir but most people like I said before missed the point.

Do you have any future plans for tattoos?

Finishing my sleeve. Of course I'm not done yet I'm playing with ideas. I love giving myself a gift that lasts as long as me [laughs].

Future plans in general?

Can I be one of a million? Now I'm one of 319,368 (population of Iceland).

Shout outs to anyone?

My tattoo artists Jon Pall and Buri (Icelandtattoo.com), Vals, Birnu, Bent, and all my homies. ★





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KHAN

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

BY GEOFFREY STEPHENSON

Khan is a Korean born tattoo artist who now works out of his own shop, Kids Love Ink, in Japan. When we saw his portfolio, using a style which he calls neo fantasy, we were quite impressed. We were recently lucky enough to ask Khan a few questions about his work, life, and tattooing in Japan. The language barrier was just a little rough, but we believe his work speaks for itself.

First off, how old are you?

I am 36.

How long have you been tattooing?

This summer, it will be eight years.



How did you get started in the tattoo industry? Did you do an apprenticeship?

Actually, I wanted to be an architect like Antonio Gaudi...still it's one of my dreams. But one day I saw the real Japanese tattoo of Yakuza. It was absolutely the most amazing art I ever seen. So I determined to go the way of a tattoo artist, I just wanted to be a tattoo artist. I started to teach myself tattoos in Tokyo. I practiced my first tattoo on my whole body...even on right arm, chest,





and belly! And I started tattooing at first [in my] own small studio in Tokyo. My teacher was my body!

How did you end up in Japan?

I was a traditional tattoo artist of Japan for long time. And, I was the first Korean traditional Japanese tattooist in Japan. I mean, some of Korean people visited in Japan for learning Japanese traditional tattoo. But they could not work and could not make their own shop in Japan. First time, my tattoo life was very hard in Tokyo. No customers, my shop was very quiet [laughs] because I was a foreign Japanese traditional tattooist. But, it got better and better...I am really lucky guy, I think!

Tell us a little about Kids Love Ink.

It was a combination of ideas from me and some of my English tattoo artist friends: Charlie, Marcus...

Who are some of your influences?

Absolutely Filip Leu, Tin-Tin, and Horiyoshi III of Japan.

How would you describe your style?

That is a very difficult question. I have my own style, there are so many people in



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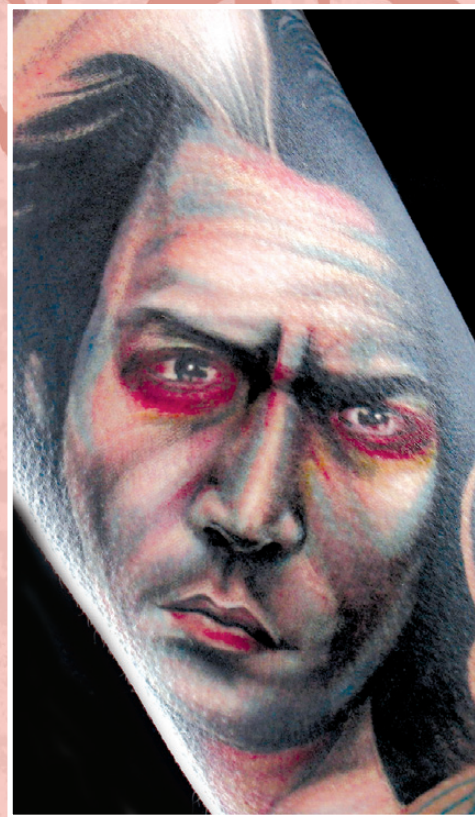
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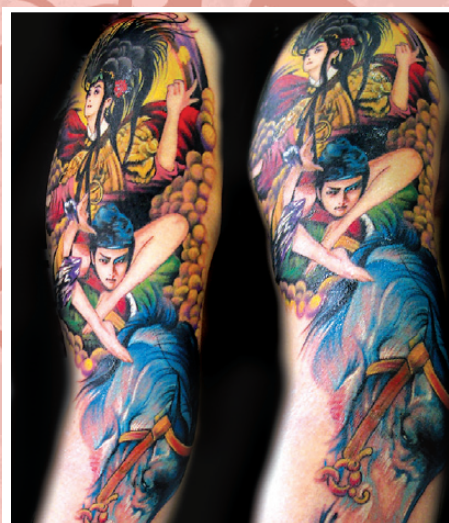
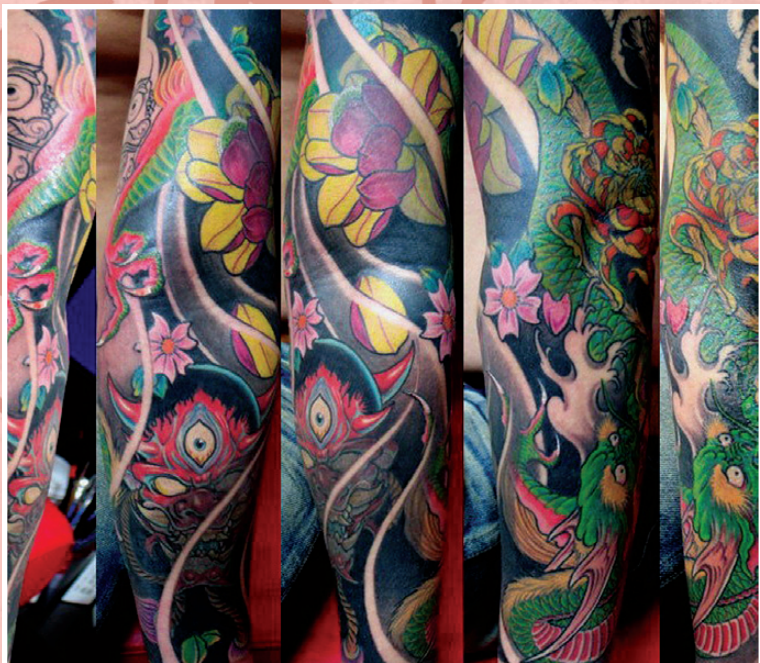


the world. We might have similar styles but not the same. Actually, I call my style neo fantasy. I like Asian style, Asian old fantasy, but they are not enough for me. So I mix Asian fantasy and realistic stuff. So, that is called neo fantasy tattoo! I made this name a long time ago. This is still my favorite style.

Do you see any differences between tattooing in the U.S. and tattooing in Japan?

First, tattooing is legal in the U.S. but it's still between legal and illegal in Japan. We envy your license system. And portrait or realistic tattoo is most popular in U.S. but, still most of Japanese customers want to get Japanese style tattoos.





What's your favorite thing about being a tattoo artist?

Customers smiling; if my customer is happy, then I am happy too. Making new friends in the world and traveling.

What do you like to do outside of the world of tattooing?

I like watching movies and listening to good music.

Any future plans or final words?

There are so many good tattoo artists in the world that have good skills. But I wanna be a respected tattoo artist. And I do tattoos in Japan and some other countries in the world, but I am very proud that I am a Korean. I love my country! ★

For more information, go to www.khantattoo.com.



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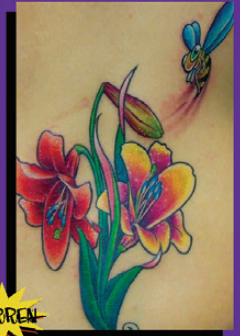
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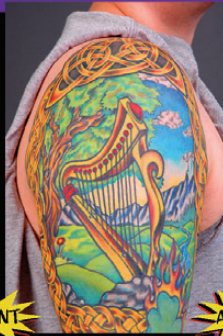
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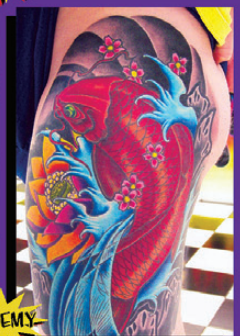
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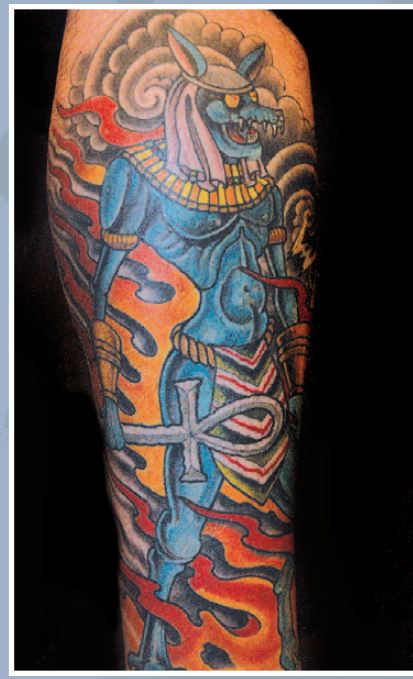
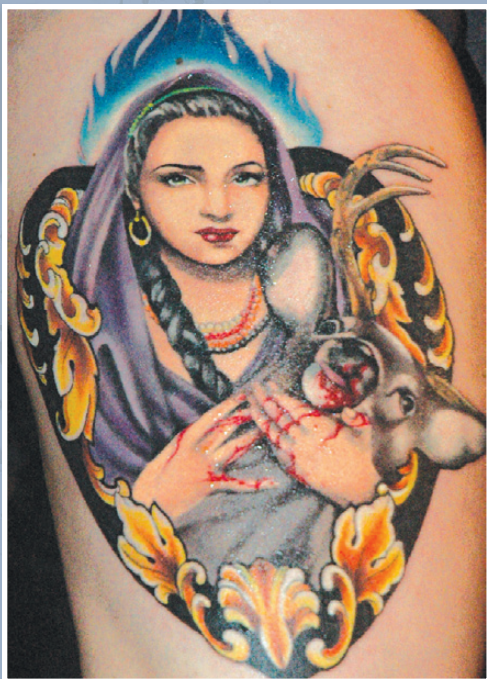
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NYC TATTOO CONVENTION

TATTOO SHOW

BY DAMIEN MAURER

The 12th Annual New York City Tattoo Convention was held at Roseland Ballroom in NYC the weekend of May 15-17. Artists from around the world and as far away as Scotland and Japan were on hand showing their best art and "giving people some pain," as veteran convention attendee and master artist Paul Booth of NYC



Tommy Murphy of Mean Street Tattoo in College Park, N.Y.



The infamous Paul Booth with Lyndsey Bass and Kristen GQ of the Gypsy Queens

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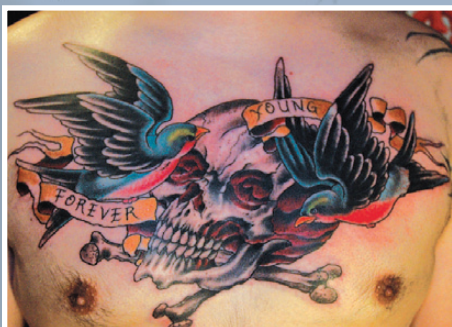
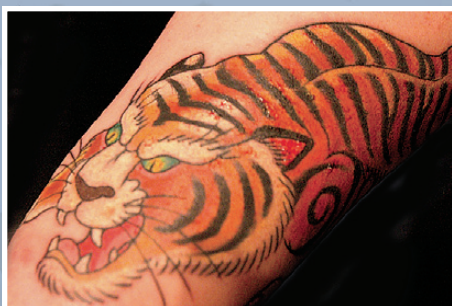
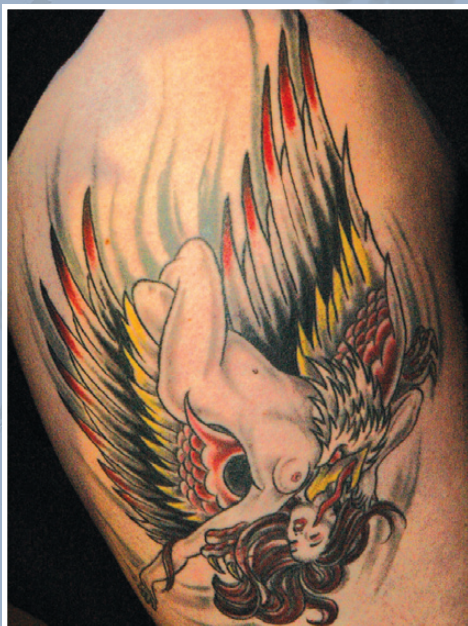
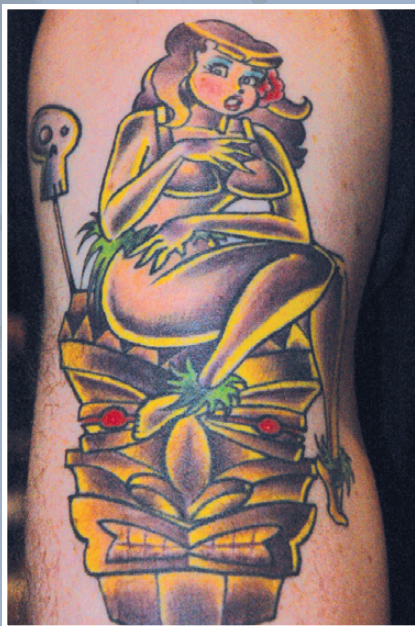
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NEW YORK CITY TATTOO CONVENTION

would say. It is truly breathtaking to see so many people getting ink at the same time on the main floor of this legendary venue. Hearing the buzz of the tattoo machines was mesmerizing and the smell of the ink intoxicating. For many, the biggest treat this year was that famed Hungarian tattoo artist, Boris, had an exhibition booth set up where he was available for ink sessions. As well as the three weeks following the convention when Boris was working out of Paul Booth's studio.

Upstairs on the balcony several artists from Japan were featured in one corner. As you walked around the rest of the balcony vendors were selling everything from T-shirts and accessories to CDs and sculptures. The bars were open and the booze



Azarja from Shotsie's Tattoo in Wayne, N.J.



Frankie Scorpion of the Gypsy Queens (left) with friends



Little Dragon of Paul Booth's Last Rites Tattoo



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Elio Espana (center) of Fly Rite Tattoo in Brooklyn, N.Y.

NEW YORK CITY TATTOO CONVENTION

was flowing freely to insure that everyone had a great time. Which they did, especially when one of the side-show freaks named Johnny Fox came out and did his sword swallowing act accompanied with a comedy routine. Overall, the convention was a success although several people commented that attendance was lighter than usual, probably due to our troubled economy. ★

For more information, go to www.nyctattooconvention.com.



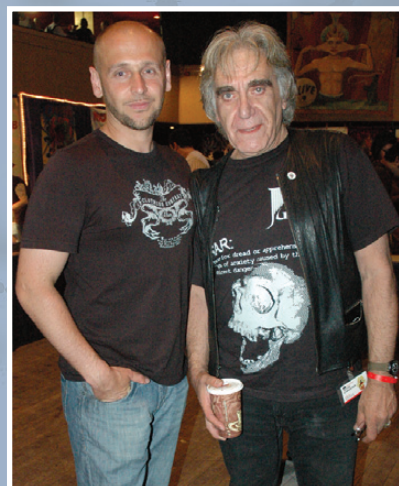
Linda Lee Tobin of Outer Limits Tattoo



Melissa Graves



Sword swallower Johnny Fox entertained the crowd

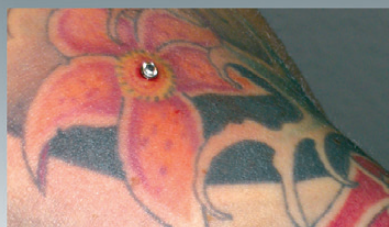
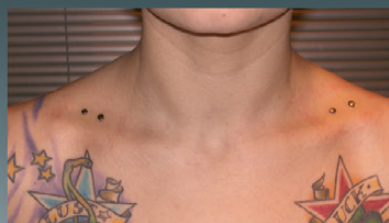


Tattoo artist Boris from Hungary (left) and HR Giger's agent (right)





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TATS AND TUNES GALLOWES

BY LISA SHARER
PHOTOS BY CRAIG BURTON

Craigburtonphotography.com
Myspace.com/burtoncraig

It wasn't necessarily overnight success, but it definitely seemed like it. When the Gallows recently returned from SXSW, they found waiting for them, a contract with Warner Brothers. A huge step from the indie labels they had worked with, and an even bigger opportunity to reach the huge number of fans they have today. The best part about this English punk band, aside from their music of course, is their very own personal tattoo artist. Frank Carter, lead vocalist and accredited tattoo artist has the inside opinion on the art form. Luckily, we had a chance to ask him about life, music, art, and more.

So while it seems like the Gallows appeared overnight, the story behind the band is a little different. "Laurent and myself had wanted to start a band together for a long time. We had both seen each other's previous bands, and [we]knew that in our bands we both played the hardest. So [we thought] if we were in a band together with other musicians

that played as hard as us, we would be onto something good. It took us almost three years to eventually start the band and the rest is history." With one album released on a UK and American indie label (*Orchestra of Wolves*), the Gallows toured relentlessly. And in some cases were found so punk rock, they were uninvited to perform. After hearing their album, Disney cancelled the Gallows show that was scheduled at the House of Blues in California back in 2008. After a few jokes were made, the band continued performing across the country and the UK and kept their punk rocking for those who deserved to get a listen. Later, there was uncertainty around the likelihood of another release. But Warner Brothers seemed to make a difference and the Gallows put out *Grey Britain* in May of 2009. Now they are currently on the Warped Tour and planning a tour of the UK in the winter.

To get an idea of what you'll hear coming from the Gallows albums, Carter describes the music as similar to "a kick in the teeth." If you haven't been kicked in the teeth, maybe it's time you find out what it's like. On a serious note though, these guys are passionate about what they do. As can be seen in Carter's advice to



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other musicians, "be original. Play from your heart. Don't play music because you think other people want to hear it. Play music for yourself. Have passion and patience and the rest will come." And by the rest, Carter is referring to the amazing ability that is calling yourself a full time musician. The best part about that is "being able to travel and meet new people every single day. The people you meet are all likeminded individuals who all wanted to do something different with their life, so normally they are all pretty interesting people with their own story to tell. I also get to visit places that I probably would never have had the opportunity to see," says Carter.

As a tattoo artist Carter has the unique outlook on body art and music. "[They are often seen hand in hand] because both cultures are very similar and provide the same satisfaction for each person as the other." As an art form, Carter finds tattooing as, "more of a folk art to me than anything else. It's basically just drawing and then the rest is more technically mechanical than anything else. That's why I love tattooing. If you can draw well, then chances are you are an artist; there's a lot more than just drawing to be a tattooer." He also refers to tattoos as his favorite art form, "as there is very

little pretence and hardly any over thinking, it can be fast, slow, spontaneous or well planned."

Carter has very sentimental reasons for his choice in tattoos, "because I wanted to look like I had just left prison...isn't that why everyone gets tattoos?" Aside from his jovial answers, he also warns against getting a bad tattoo. "Be ready for your bank balance to be hurting just as much as your body. Good tattoos ain't cheap and cheap tattoos ain't good." He also tells *PRICK* that you can find his favorite tattoo artists at Smith Street Tattoo Parlour in Brooklyn, NY. In fact his sign off message was, "Get tattooed as Smith Street."

While there's been mixed reporting on the future of this punk collective, Carter tells us, "Gallows has been a band for four years now, and we are all very excited about our future in the band." So it seems as though we will get plenty more time to enjoy their music, although we all may need to get fitted for dentures. ★

For more information visit www.gallows.co.uk or www.myspace.com/gallows.



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RADEO



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For those who've been living under a rock, SuicideGirls is a community that celebrates alternative beauty and culture from all over the world. Not just an online thing, SuicideGirls can be found at many tattoo conventions as well. This month, PRICK features five tattooed SuicideGirls: Radeo, Sawa, JaneDoe, James, and Bella. ★



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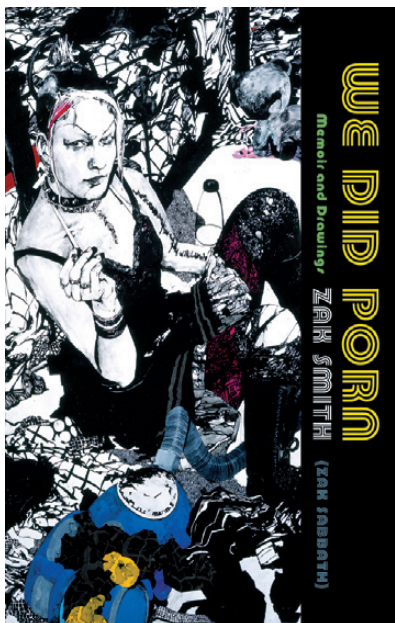
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BY SAGE ADDERLY

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

You start this month blazing and raring to go! That's dandy but you may end up making some rash decisions because of this wild energy. Wait until later in the month for that tattoo you've had your eye on. Your energy will smooth out and allow you to make the choices that you will be able to live with forever.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

All is well until around mid-August when Venus partners up with Mars and Pluto. The logic you were using gets tossed out of the window and you may find yourself at the local tattoo shop doing something completely out of character. A nipple piercing? A large tattoo? This may not be such a bad idea so go for it!

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)

Be wise and take a back seat to body art fun this month. You truly don't have the funds to go forth with your tattoo so hold off for a later date. The best course of action to take is to tag along with your buddy when they visit the tattoo shop to get their ink fix and be a supportive friend.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

You will be out and about with your friends living it up. The keyword for you is balance. Treat yourself to that tattoo you've been pondering but make sure it is nice and healed before you end up calling the tattoo shop to schedule your next tattoo appointment. Steady now!

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

Happy Birthday Leos! You'll be glad to know that this month will not be a disappointing one. You will be receiving plenty of birthday money to spend at the tattoo shop. You'll also have an admirer who is sweet on you and will volunteer to join you at the shop. Have fun Leo, this is your time to shine and we all know you can.

VIRGO (August 23 - September 22)

Let's face it, there is someone in your life who is making you feel a bit odd about the body modification that you are interested in getting. They definitely haven't been shy about letting you know but you just need to stand your ground with them. At the end of the day it is ultimately your choice. Stick to your guns!

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

There is no stopping you this month. You have your mind set and you are focused. Thinking of going large scale with your next tattoo? Now is the time to plan that piece. The joining of Mars and Pluto will have you and your tattoo artist on the same page and you'll find yourselves creating a masterpiece together.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21)

You are feeling passionate this month for someone in particular. While you want to do something exotic for them, you need to watch your wallet and make sure you don't splurge too much. A piercing might be more realistic than a tattoo. Enhancing a body part that your partner adores will drive them bananas.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21)

The planets are in an ideal alignment for you to get tattooed. Do not settle for artwork that just anyone can pick off the shop wall. This tattoo needs to be a reflection of the spiritual journey that you have been on. Consider hues of purple or red.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19)

August finds you happily plotting your next tattoo. Everything feels right except for one thing. It looks as though the individuals you associate with at work aren't seeing eye to eye with you regarding your future body art. Think twice before potentially harming your work environment.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

Dear Aquarius, you will need to develop thick skin this month. The people around you are only trying to give you some sound advice. Listen, you knew better than to sun bathe and go swimming with a new tattoo. Be attentive to the advice of your tattoo artist so you can heal your body art properly.

PISCES (February 19 - March 20)

Karma is coming back around and blessing you with the financial means to get your tattoo. If you have an unfinished piece that has been an eye sore, this is a perfect opportunity to finish that tattoo up. Be cautious of anyone trying to talk you into starting something elaborate.



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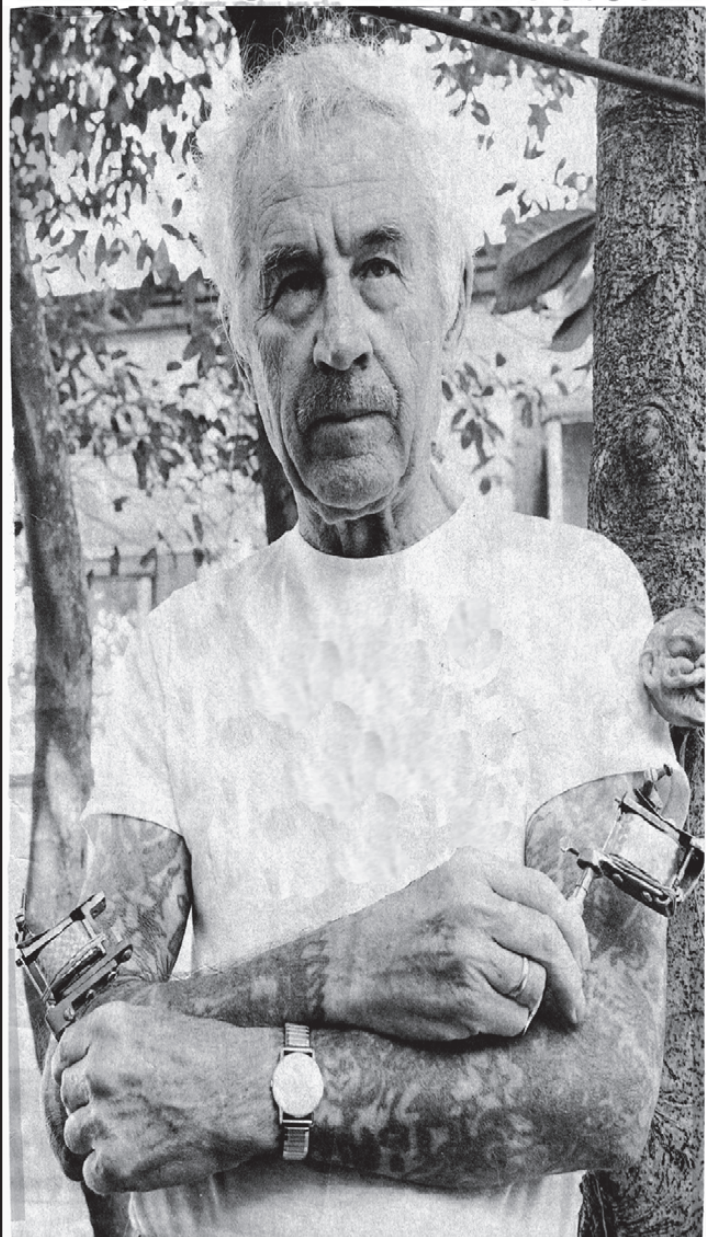
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SOUTHSIDE CEMETERY CHOIR

If We Bury You Ass Up, We'll Have A Place to Park My Bike

When Minneapolis-based lo-fi garage music becomes based on random trips to local cemeteries, I listen. When it speaks of life and death, zombies, or what might happen when I get old and fat, I listen more closely because I fear what might befall me in the future. An experimental collaboration between members of local bands Sleeping in the Aviary, A Paper Cup Band, Dirty Paws, Inboil and Rupert Angeleyes, this album stinks of creativity and

musical intuition. Appearances by banjos, ukuleles, keyboards and flutes don't go unnoticed. And neither does the fact that this shit is free on the Internet. - Sean Dettman



OUTRAGE

Broken [Panic]

You'd think people would be sick of playing and hearing '90s style hardcore by now, but the funny thing is that the 2000's have borne some of the best '90s style hardcore bands. Up until now Boston's Outrage was just another band fighting for their time in the spotlight. *Broken* is the album that should get them the recognition they deserve. Where they previously just pummeled, the band now shows technical proficiency. Average barked vocals are now layered and more complex. They

even have a couple of slow, brooding parts. Fans of Converge, Unbroken, and 108 should give this a listen. - Patricia Valery (Evilneedles.com)



THE COLD BEAT

Dumbwaiter Myspace.com/thecoldbeat

Though it's a pretty cool debut release in a Replacements meets Samiam sorta way, what makes *Dumbwaiter* so appealing (to me at least) is that vocalist Chris Amaral sounds a heck of a lot like Glen Quagmire from *Family Guy* — giggidy. Musically this six song EP has some serious indie punk charm. The Cold Beat is a band that knows how to create good harmony and excellent melody, but, like Samiam, they stay humble and don't get too flashy. This could be your best friend's

band or your band and it's this tangible quality that makes *Dumbwaiter* giggidy-good.

- Patricia Valery (Evilneedles.com)



YESMISTERBLOODVESSEL

Racing the Relapse

Yesmisterbloodvessel.com

The lyric sheet to *Racing the Relapse* reads like a motivational speaker's teleprompter. It's the kind of stuff that'll really get you up off your ass and back on the proverbial horse by letting you know that life sucks and it will probably continue to suck for a long time unless you do something about it. As for the auditory part of this album, it plays like a mixture of Nine Inch Nails, Andrew WK, and the Beatles. This hodgepodge of styles and sounds is a

welcome deviation from all the cookie cutter music out there.

- Patricia Valery (Evilneedles.com)



GREEN DAY

21st Century Breakdown [Reprise]

Green Day is a whirling, swirling juggernaut that's been going full force for over twenty years now. Their songs get played on Top 40 radio stations just as much as Alternative or Rock. They have staying power that mystifies and confounds your average musician. But who can argue with their celebrity when they absolutely deserve it? *21st Century Breakdown*, already proving to be a hit generator with "Know Your Enemy," and it's not surprising that one of the pioneering bands of pop-punk is still kicking out music that people really, really enjoy. Short, sweet, and to the point, this album deserves a bit of your time. - Lyndsey Sargent



MARILYN MANSON

The High End of Low [Interscope]

Truth be told, Manson's latest release, *The High End of Low*, is good. He's toned down the kitsch and weirdness for this release and surprise, all that's left is some good rock music. I was expecting the same-old-same-old, with the singles like "Arma-goddamn-motherfuckin-geddon," but all 15 tracks pull their own weight. More concerning, though, is that Manson seems to have gone classic Goth kid and has started eating his emotions away. While this album is strong, is it possible to take the now double chin-necked rocker seriously? Guess middle age will catch up to you, no matter who you are. - Lyndsey Sargent



MOTHER OF MERCY

III [Six Feet Under]

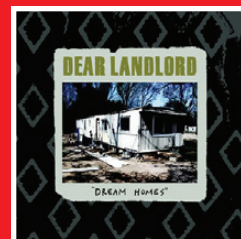
Mother of Mercy is what happens when the pendulum swings the other way. The total antithesis of your typical modern hardcore band, these guys are harsh, heavy, and stripped down to the bare essentials. The production is a little raw, but the chunky riffs hoarse vocals, and Spartan lyrics are so mammoth and immense that they could have recorded this album on an answering machine and I'd still be impressed. *III* is the kind of album you listen to when you want to show poseurs how hardcore *should* sound. - Patricia Valery (Evilneedles.com)



DEAR LANDLORD

Dream Homes [No Idea Records]

Harmony is when a bunch of stuff sounds good together, and melody is when things sound good lined up in succession. Dear Landlord is a band that knows how to be harmonious and melodious. Their bare bones and basic style is comparable to Off With Their Heads or Jawbreaker. Three rough voices sing in loosely assembled yells over a handful of power chords that go great together. *Dream Homes* is a feel good punk album that lets you know there are worse places than the one you're in right now. - Patricia Valery (Evilneedles.com)



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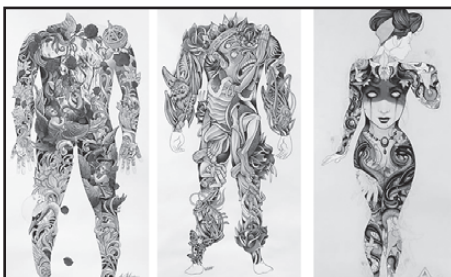
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COMMITMENT

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Until the 16th of this month, Canvas LA is presenting *Commitment*, a Guru Tattoo art show. Guru is a premiere studio in San Diego's beautiful Pacific Beach that prides itself on

the collaboration of some of the nation's top tattoo artists. The *Commitment* art show consists of twenty, full body suit paintings measuring over six feet tall each. The goal of which is to express the inherent connection between the human body and the art we have dedicated our lives to decorating it with. The artists involved in this show include Aaron Della Vedova, Paul Dhuey, Nate Banuelos, Adam Hathorn, Cooper, Rory Keating, Anthony Filo, and Nick Alvarez. Don't miss it!

August 7-9

LOLLAPALOOZA

Grant Park - Chicago, IL - Lollapalooza.com

Lollapalooza is a lot like lemonade, sweet, tart, and synonymous with summer and good times. The 2009 lineup features the likes of Depeche Mode, Tool, and Coheed and Cambria, among literally hundreds of other indie and rock mainstays. Tickets have almost dried up, but with a little searching, you can squeeze one and spend the weekend making lemonade with thousands in Chicago's Grant Park. [Lyndsey Sargent]



August 28-30

OUTSIDE LANDS MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Golden Gate Park - San Francisco, Calif.

Outside Lands, the dynamic and ground-breaking three-day music and arts festival, will take place in San Francisco's historic Golden Gate Park later this month. Pearl Jam, Dave Matthews Band and Beastie Boys are set to headline the event. Also look for performances by Mastodon, The Mars Volta, Silversun Pickups, TV on the Radio, Deerhunter, Ween, Modest Mouse, M.I.A., Band of Horses, Incubus, and more. Outside Lands uses the backdrop of one of the most famous parks in a city that's rich with history and culture for an unforgettable weekend of music, food, wine, technology and more.

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100 LADIES

Young Blood Gallery - Only You Tattoo
Atlanta, Ga.

Youngbloodgallery.com - Myspace.com/onlyyoutattoo

Young Blood Gallery presents *100 Ladies*. The art exhibit features works by Danielle Distefano of Only You Tattoo in the Grant Park neighborhood of Atlanta, Ga. *100 Ladies* is Distefano's first solo show, and it consists of 100 paintings all of lady heads in oval frames. "My first solo show was a test, a goal to accomplish 100 paintings," says Distefano. "As a tattoo artist you are creating images for other people whether you like them or not. For this show I picked one of my favorite images to draw, paint, and especially tattoo. 100 ladies."



August 28

THE SCABLICK COLLECTION

Art N Soul Studios
Allentown, Pa.

Art-n-soulstudios.com - Olddevil.com

Art N Soul Studios in Allentown, Pa. proudly presents *The Scablick Collection*, the newest solo show of Konnik. The artist will be showcasing his take on traditional American tat-



toos on a unique canvas he calls SCABS. The opening reception begins at 8pm on August 28. For more information, go to Olddevil.com. Konnik promises a night of disturbing fun.

August 26

I'M GONNA DO IT UNTIL THE DAY I DIE

Young Blood Gallery - Atlanta, Ga.
Imgonnadoituntilthedayidie.com

During the Atlanta Underground Film Festival this month, Young Blood Gallery will be screening *I'm Gonna Do It Until The Day I Die*. The movie, from Majic Robot Films and directed by Dale Peterson and Coleman Weinberg, follows Detroit band Mog Stunt Team on their mission to save rock 'n' roll across the USA. This documentary explores the tragic events and curious details that led to the band's ultimate demise. *I'm Gonna Do It Until The Day I Die* is narrated by King Buzzo from the Melvins. Check it out.



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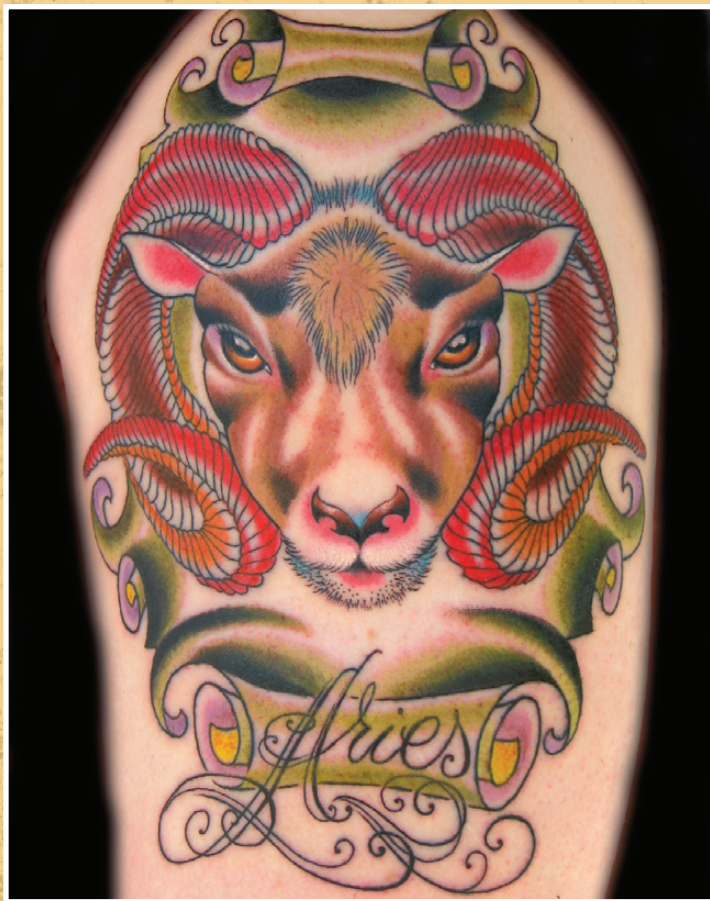
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MO MALONE

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

BY WILLIAM THIDEMANN

Mo Malone has got a lot figured out. Her tattoos are strong and well thought out, and she comes off naturally confident and at the same time excessively approachable. Everything about Malone reflects this balance. When she works she has the natural feel of a driven tattooer and when she's not, she has a carefree and positive approach to all other things that she pursues. I admit that I am biased; we are both from the same hometown and I have known her for a long time, but if you get to know her or be tattooed by her...you'll agree.

So, tell us how you started tattooing.

I was going to college at VCU [Virginia Commonwealth University]. During my freshman year I didn't know a lot of people so I started going to Rock 'n' Roll Tattoo to get tattooed all the time.

In Richmond, Va.

Yeah, I just started spending all my time there. All of their friends were getting tattooed with

my designs. The shop expanded, changed locations, and turned into a shop called Enigma. They asked me if I wanted an apprenticeship, and I didn't really take it too seriously at first because I thought, "I'm going to school for art and that trumps anything, that'll be priority, we'll see how this tattoo thing works out." I knew it wasn't going to be easy.

About what year was this?

It was '96 or '97. I started an apprenticeship with them and I was there, I think, about a year.

Who apprenticed you?

Scott Parsons.

How was your apprenticeship?

Horrible.

Typical story, isn't it?

(Laughs) Yeah. Scott was a great guy, he was a good tattooer for the time, but he had a bunch of family problems and personal issues



charge them the same - it was part of the general hustle.

Oh God, shiesty!

And if you didn't do this he'd get upset with you. At the same time you could do whatever you wanted when he wasn't paying attention. Because doing bigger was easier. But also when you're first starting you don't have a leg to stand on. It just keeps the foot in the door and helps you progress in an odd way.

So I had this one day of working at this crap shop and I was like, 'All right, clearly tattooing is not for me. I have fucking bills to pay.' So I started sending my resume out. My dad actually found me a teaching position online. I ended up being a teacher for a year. I taught 4th - 7th grade art in Sussex County. It was amazing. It was an awesome experience.

My friend in D.C. called me that spring and said that Rick's Tattoos was hiring. And I was like, 'I don't know, Melissa, maybe tattooing is not for me. All these shop owners are just assholes.' I gave it a day and thought about it. And I was like, 'If I'm going to do this, I got to do this.' So I called him up and we had a little mini interview



going on that he was dealing with, so he wasn't in the shop that much. Every time I had questions, he wasn't there. So that was a big issue. And the owner and I did not get along.

Well, Richmond was a dramatic place around the time when you were starting.

Yeah.

It was not super easy going, relative to other cities.

Yeah, but it went as long as it did, and it got my foot in the door, and definitely got me interested in the industry. And after I left there, I focused on finishing my degree. I got my BFA in sculpture and furniture design and once I graduated I started trying to get a job at another shop. I was talking to Robbie at Red Dragon. I worked for one day, God, I can't even think of the name of the shop. What was it, St. Peter's? It was just south of Richmond.

Okay, Petersburg, you mean? Where the military base was?

Yeah, it was this hole-in-the-wall shop and the owner had an entire sleeve of swastikas.

Oh, wow. That's high-class.

And I didn't know about this guy, so I was like, this is not going to work.

I worked at a shop in Petersburg right outside of the gates the military base, so I understand.

Well, the worst part of it was that this jerk was dogging black people left and right and that was the majority of his clientele, and it was like, how can you shit where you're eating?

Of course, the dude where I had it he would tell all the employees to shrink stuff to 70% of what they were on the wall, because he knew people wouldn't know, and then he'd



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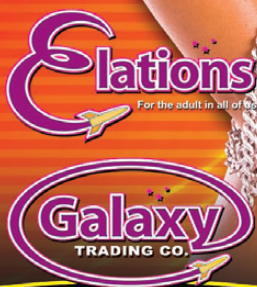
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over the phone and I explained to him that I needed to set a date to drive the hundred miles up there.

So we had our interview and everything went great and he told me to come on up. I told him that I needed more reassurance than that because I didn't want to relocate back to northern Virginia and get screwed again. I would have been fucking pissed! I told him that I needed some kind of summer guarantee of work. I was like, 'you know as long as I'm doing a good job, then we'll reevaluate. I'm not trying to offend you.' He started to write something on a piece of paper and said, 'Well, I don't know what to write, you write something and I'll sign it.' I still have that piece of paper somewhere. But really, that was basically the turning point of my tattooing career.

That's a cool place to have a turn around; it's got a neat history and all that kind of stuff.

Absolutely. That shop's been around forever and has produced a lot of good tattooers as well.

A lot of people have done time there. So what happened after that?

I worked at Rick's for a year and a half. The cost of living was really high and we had two other shops on the same block that created high competition issues, which was a pain in the butt. I had just gotten out of a relationship when I got a call from a friend who told



me that Iron Age was hiring and that I should send my portfolio out. I had always liked St. Louis, and the only way I would live there is if I worked at Iron Age. I sent my portfolio and made a little trip and everyone there was really cool and kind of brought me in. They showed me how it runs and the rest is history. I came back to D.C. and told Rick I was relocating. It was nothing personal, I still love Rick to death, I think I just needed to be in a new place.

That's fairly understandable. It's healthy for artistic growth. So how long have you been at Brad's?

I have been at Iron Age for almost seven years.

How has it been working in that environment and especially working with Mr. Fink, in the form of your tattoo experience?

It has completely transformed everything. Working in such a busy shop allows your artwork to escalate to a whole other fucking level. I learned

so much so fast.

One of the best parts about Iron Age is that everyone is into doing different styles. A common thing that tends to happen in most shops is that everyone starts to do the same type of shit. It can all be phenomenal, shit work. But at Iron Age you've got your portrait guys, you've got your traditional guys, you've got guys doing custom work and little bangers, so you're picking the brains of a lot of different types of people and it does nothing but help you in whatever direction you're trying to go with your artwork without mimicking somebody else's style. Brad is pretty animated, he's definitely fun to work for, and I consider him a close friend. He's definitely taught me a lot. We've partied some and had some fun working together.

I'm sure anyone that needs to know, knows already.

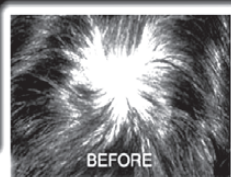
Anyone who knows him knows how the Fink is.

What are your future plans, what do you have going on now?

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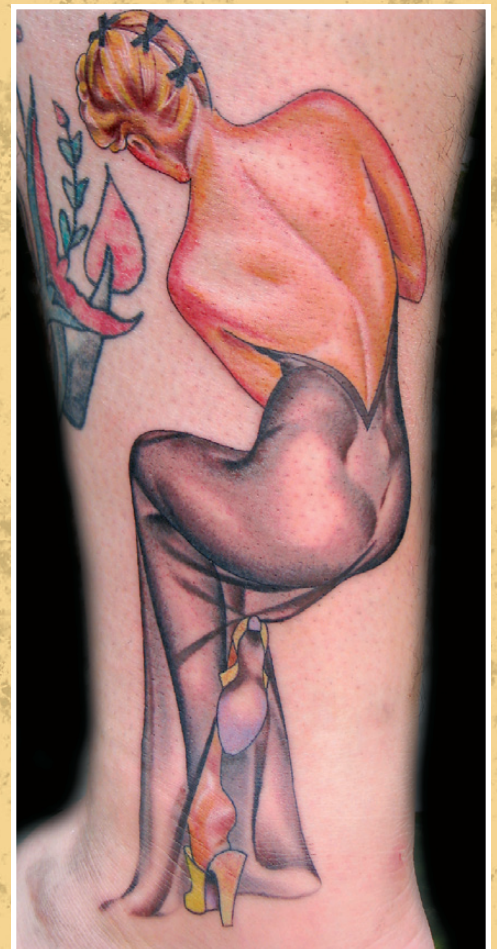
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apartment above the shop that will be turned into a custom only shop. Myself, Trevor Collis, Josh Chapman and Brad will be working up there, exclusively. We're just trying to get the new space ready to go to town.

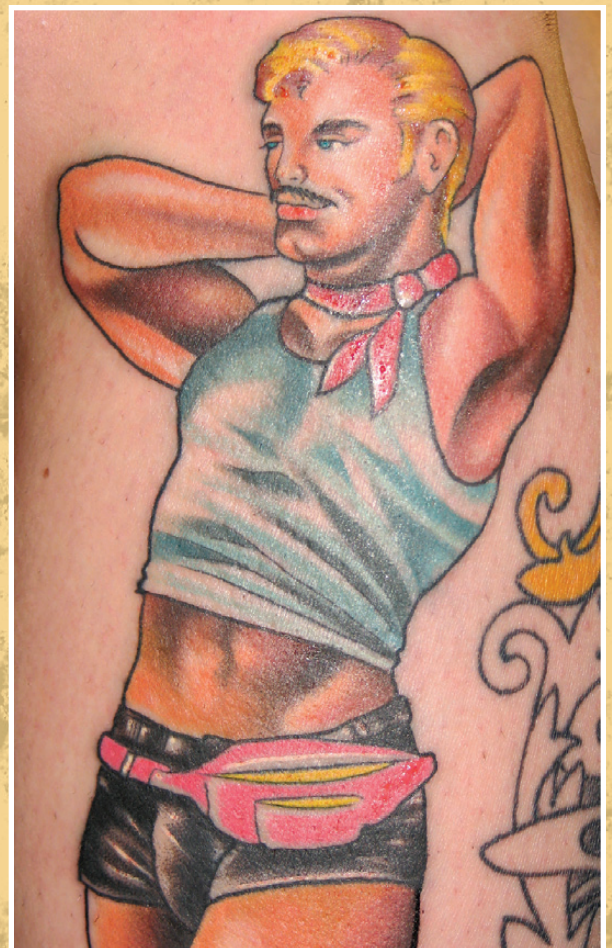
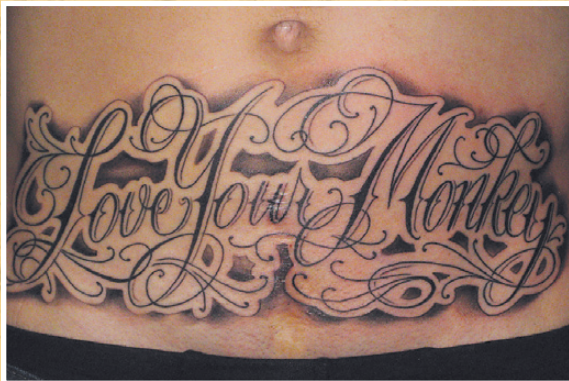
What about any art projects? Do you have any painting projects? Flash, anything going on?
No, not really.

That's kind of ironic since you're an art school kid.

But I worked in a lot of 3D mediums. I was in a wood shop and welding and casting. I think that was the worst part about leaving school, that I don't have a studio to work out of anymore. At my first apartment in St. Louis I was like, 'I'm going to buy all these tools!' I bought a table saw and a miter saw and said, 'Now where the fuck am I going to use this?'

An apartment is not ideal for woodworking.

I have no space! The next obstacle was buying a house with a detached garage so I could have my workspace. I just honestly haven't set it up as much as I'd like to. I enjoy painting, but I did more installation work, too. I think dealing with a gallery space is more exciting for me, working with random materials, fabric, cloth, string, lights, smells; all kinds of random stuff outside the box. I think tattooing consumes all of the creative juice that I have. So in my down time I don't really do anything that has to do with art.



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Yeah, apparently, since we're sitting in a skate park!

Definitely. Riding my bike has taken most of my free time. And it's been so healthy.

Absolutely, you've got to have outlets, to go live life and make art.

I think that you get to that point where you're so burnt out you don't want to draw anything, and I don't want it to get to that point. A couple of times I've just been to the point where I hate drawing, I'm like, 'Something's got to give.'

It's better to be proactive with regard to stress levels, because it's a shame to see artists that are really talented get to a point where they don't enjoy something that they used to see as an escape from normal life. With a little taste



of success everybody gets all burnt out and bitter, and it's a shame. You've got to stay ahead of it a bit, because if you keep your stress level down, being a tattoo artist is a great job.

Yeah.

Are you doing any conventions, what are your travel plans?

In August, I believe it's August, I'm doing the Rochester convention. I think I'm going to drive up for that. There are just way too many BMX spots and riders that I need to see along the way.

Plus it will be a fun convention. Unfortunately, I can't go. It's the same time as another trip.

That sucks.

I'm kind of bummed.

I was going to fly out and bring my BMX bike, but I'm too paranoid that my bike's going to get lost. So I said, 'Fuck it! I'm just going to turn this into a big road trip, I'm just going to drive up and work the convention and ride.' Not many other travel plans, maybe come back to Colorado in the fall.

You better, it's good to have you out.

I will, definitely.

Well good luck, enjoy driving a lot. Hopefully my car doesn't die as it has 220,000 miles on it. ★

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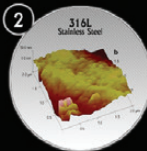
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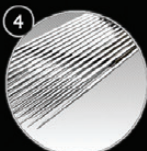
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